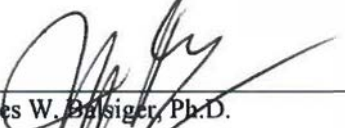


**BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND GULF OF ALASKA  
GROUNDFISH FISHERY  
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT  
AUTHORITY: 50 CFR 600.745(b) AND 50 CFR 679.6  
PERMIT 2018-01**

The Administrator, Alaska Region, (Regional Administrator), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, hereby authorizes designated non-pelagic trawl catcher-processor vessels operating in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (Amendment 80, Community Development Quota [CDQ], and Trawl Limited Access programs) and Gulf of Alaska to conduct experimental fishing that will provide information on how modified halibut handling practices may contribute to incidentally caught halibut survival. The exempted fishing permit (EFP) describes exemptions to regulations and other requirements that are necessary to facilitate the project.

The permit holders and the owner(s) and operator(s) of the participating vessel(s) must comply with the EFP terms, and unless otherwise provided in this permit, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and 50 CFR parts 600 and 679. An authorized designated representative for each vessel participating in experimental fishing under this EFP must complete and sign a copy of the vessel information form contained in Appendix A, of this EFP.

This permit is valid and effective when signed by both the Regional Administrator and all participating permit holders. This permit is valid through December 31, 2019. If experimental fishing concludes before the expiration date, the Principal Investigator may terminate the permit prior to the expiration date by notifying Brandee Gerke (907) 586-7650, NMFS Alaska Regional Office. This permit may be revoked, modified, or suspended under the permit's terms, by the Regional Administrator, or by regulatory action under 50 CFR part 679, 50 CFR 600.745, or 15 CFR part 904.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James W. Balsiger, Ph.D.  
Administrator,  
Alaska Region, NMFS

12/20/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

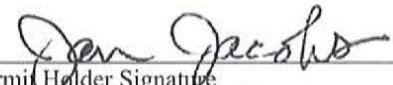
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Gauvin  
Principal Investigator,  
Alaska Seafood Cooperative

12/19/2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS  
GROUND FISH FISHERY  
MODIFIED EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT 2018-01  
PERMIT HOLDER SIGNATURE PAGE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Signature  
Todd M. Loomis  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Printed Name  
Ocean Peace, Inc.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Company/Affiliation


12-15-2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

  
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Permit Holder Signature  
Jan Jacobs  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Printed Name  
American Seafoods Co.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Company/Affiliation

12/15/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

  
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Permit Holder Signature  
Mark Fina  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Printed Name  
United States Seafoods, LLC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Company/Affiliation


12/14/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Signature  
ANNIKA SALTMAN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Printed Name  
FISHERMEN'S FINEST, INC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Company/Affiliation

12/15/2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Signature  
KEITH A BRUTON  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Printed Name  
O'HARA CORPORATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Company/Affiliation

12/16/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

  
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Permit Holder Signature  
Erik C. Petersen  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Printed Name  
IQUIQUE US, LLC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Holder Company/Affiliation

12/16/17  
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Date Signed

  
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Permit Holder Signature  
  
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Permit Holder Printed Name  
  
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Permit Holder Company/Affiliation  
  
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Permit Holder Company/Affiliation  
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Date Signed

**BERING SEA/ALEUTIAN ISLANDS  
GROUNDFISH FISHERY  
MODIFIED EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT 2018-01  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**AUTHORITY: 50 CFR 600.745(B) AND 50 CFR 679.6**

**MODIFIED HALIBUT HANDLING EXPERIMENT FOR THE BERING SEA NON-PELAGIC  
TRAWL CATCHER-PROCESSOR FISHERIES**

**A. Permit Holders** – The following individuals and the companies they represent are co-applicants for this EFP and are considered co-permit holders. Each permit holder must designate an authorized representative(s) to act as the main point of contact between the permit holder, the Principal Investigator, the vessel and crew, and NMFS.

1. John Gauvin  
Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC)  
4241 21st Avenue W., Suite 302  
Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 462-7682
2. Mark Fina  
United States Seafoods, LLC (USS)  
1801 Fairview Ave. E., #100  
Seattle, WA 98102  
(206) 763-3133  
*Vessels: Seafreeze Alaska, Seafreeze America, Legacy, Vaerdal*
3. Todd Loomis  
Ocean Peace, Inc. (OP)  
4201 21st Ave. West  
Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 282-6100  
*Vessels: Seafisher, Ocean Peace, Alaska Warrior, Alaska Victory*
4. Jan Jacobs  
American Seafoods Company, LLC (ASC)  
2025 1st Ave., #900  
Seattle, WA 98121  
(206) 448-0300  
*Vessels: Katie Ann, Northern Jaeger*
5. Jim Johnson  
Glacier Fish Company, LLC (GFC)  
2320 W. Commodore Way, #200  
Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 298-1200  
*Vessel: Northern Glacier*

6. Annika Saltman  
Fishermen's Finest (FF)  
570 Kirkland Way  
Kirkland, WA 98033  
(206) 283-1137  
*Vessels: US Intrepid, American No. 1, America's Finest*
7. Keith Bruton  
O'Hara Corp. (OC)  
4315 11th Ave NW  
Seattle, WA 98107  
(206) 706-4166  
*Vessels: Defender, Constellation, Enterprise, Araho, Alaska Spirit*
8. Erik Petersen  
Iquique US, LLC (IUS)  
2320 West Commodore Way, Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 298-1200  
*Vessels: Unimak, Cape Horn, Rebecca Irene, Arica, Northstar*

**B. Principal Investigator and Designated Representatives.** The Principal Investigator is authorized to receive data from observers and vessel crew participating in this EFP. Each permit holder must identify a designated representative for his or her participating vessels. The permit holder may be the same person as the designated representative. The designated representatives are authorized to act on the behalf of the Principal Investigator and permit holders to receive information or data generated from the EFP from the vessel operator of any vessel authorized to participate in this EFP.

1. Principal Investigator: The Principal Investigator (PI) is, in addition to any other responsibilities described in this permit, responsible for ensuring that the designated representatives understand and comply with the provisions of this EFP. The PI is also responsible for compiling and analyzing all EFP data collected according to the provisions of this permit and presenting a summary of those data to NMFS.

John Gauvin  
Alaska Seafood Cooperative (AKSC)  
4241 21st Avenue W., Suite 302  
Seattle, WA 98199  
(206) 462-7682

2. **Designated Representatives:** A designated representative, in addition to any other responsibilities described in this permit, manages the daily operations of a vessel or group of vessels and is the main point of contact for the vessel, PI, and NMFS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Beth Concepcion, AKSC<br>(206) 462-7683 | f. Jim Johnson, GFC<br>(206) 298-1200         |
| b. William McGill, OC<br>(425) 738-5200    | g. Annika Saltman, FF<br>(206) 283-1137       |
| c. Mark Fina, USS<br>(206) 763-3133        | h. Keith Bruton, OC<br>(206) 706-4166         |
| d. Todd Loomis, OP<br>(907) 644-8601       | i. Erik Petersen, IUS<br>(206) 298-1200       |
| e. Jan Jacobs, ASC<br>(206) 448-0300       | j. Christopher Oliver, AKSC<br>(206) 462-7682 |

**Permitted Vessels.** Designated non-pelagic trawl catcher-processor vessels in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Amendment 80, CDQ, and Trawl Limited Access programs and designated vessels operating as non-pelagic trawl catcher-processors in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) are authorized to fish under this EFP. Each vessel must have sufficient space on deck to sort and handle halibut and adequate space and facilities for the additional observer(s), project field manager, or other staff required for this EFP.

1. The PI will submit to NMFS a completed and signed Vessel Data Sheet (see **Appendix A**) for each participating vessel that includes the following information:
  - a. Vessel name(s)
  - b. Vessel length and tonnage (gross)
  - c. Federal permit number and USCG registration number
  - d. Vessel homeport
  - e. Name, address, telephone number, and fax number of owner
  - f. Name of managing company
  - g. Name of designated representative
  - h. Contact information for designated representative
  - i. Signature of designated representative
2. A copy of this EFP must be on board each participating vessel when EFP fishing.

**C. Timing of Fishing under the EFP.** Fishing under the terms of this permit is authorized from the date of issuance through December 31, 2019, or until exempted fishing is concluded, whichever is earlier.

**D. Exempted Fishing Areas.** Exempted fishing under this permit is restricted to the BSAI and GOA.

**E. Requirements for Participating Vessels.** In addition to other applicable requirements, owners and operators of a vessel participating in the project must comply with the following provisions:

1. A vessel satisfying all of the following criteria may participate in this EFP:
  - a. it is a member of the BSAI non-pelagic trawl catcher-processor fisheries (Amendment 80, CDQ, or Trawl Limited Access) or it is operating as a non-pelagic trawl catcher-processor in the GOA;

- b. it is named on a Vessel Data Sheet (Appendix A) submitted to NMFS by the permit holder; and
  - c. it is approved by NMFS for fishing under the EFP.
- 2. Each vessel must maintain sufficient space on deck to conduct halibut sorting and handling activities and adequate space and facilities for the additional observer(s), designated representative, or other staff required for this EFP.
- 3. A copy of this EFP must be kept on board the vessel and made available to the observer at the observer's request.
- 4. Owners and operators of vessels selected for EFP fishing must operate the vessel and maintain collected experiment data in accordance with the requirements of the EFP, as described in this permit. Vessel owners and operators must follow any sampling or handling protocol adjustments deemed necessary by the PI, in consultation with NMFS.
- 5. Vessels participating in this EFP and operating as a non-pelagic trawl catcher/processor in the GOA must comply with the catch monitoring requirements for Amendment 80 vessels at § 679.93 (c).<sup>1</sup>

## **F. Pre-Trip Duties**

- 1. Notification to NMFS to opt-in to EFP.
  - a. The vessel's designated representative must notify via email, Brian Mason ([brian.mason@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.mason@noaa.gov)) and Marlon Concepcion ([marlon.concepcion@noaa.gov](mailto:marlon.concepcion@noaa.gov)) of the NMFS Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division (FMA) and Jennifer Watson ([jennifer.watson@noaa.gov](mailto:jennifer.watson@noaa.gov)) of the NMFS Alaska Regional Office, at least 7 business days prior to a vessel beginning its first trip fishing under the EFP. The vessel's designated representative must also notify either the PI, Beth Concepcion, or Christopher Oliver (contact information provided in section B) when opting-in to the EFP.
  - b. As explained in section J, this EFP allows deck sorting of halibut on trips designated as EFP trips when the conditions of this EFP are met. Section J also notes that all hauls are designated as "deck sorting" hauls during an EFP fishing trip. If a vessel has previously opted-in to EFP fishing for one or more trips and subsequently discontinues EFP fishing for one or more trips, a designated representative must notify FMA prior to that vessel leaving on a subsequent EFP trip(s). This notice will include the name and Federal permit number of each vessel.
- 2. Notification to observer provider. To allow adequate time to secure observer(s) for deployment, the permit holder or their designated representative must inform their observer provider of the vessel's observer coverage needs at least 7 days prior to the start of an EFP trip when the number of observers will change relative to the vessel's most recent trip.
- 3. Pre-trip meeting with vessel.
  - a. A pre-EFP trip meeting is conducted prior to any EFP fishing trip when any one of the following—observer, vessel captain, or key crew member—is participating in deck sorting for the first time. The observers, captain, and key crew members will participate in the

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<sup>1</sup> For all participating vessels in this EFP, the pre-cruise meeting in paragraph F4 of this permit replaces the pre-cruise meeting requirement at § 679.93(c)(7).

meeting and discuss EFP fishing protocols and responsibilities of each party to ensure adherence to the terms of this permit and applicable regulations.

- b. The pre-EFP trip meeting may occur on the vessel at any time prior to fishing.
4. Observer pre-cruise meeting. Observer pre-cruise meetings are separate from the pre-trip meeting with the vessel described in paragraph F3 above and have a different purpose. The vessel operator or their designated representative must notify NMFS by calling the NMFS Dutch Harbor office (907-581-2060) or Kodiak office (907-481-1770) at least 24 hours prior to departure on a trip when the vessel will be carrying an observer who has not previously been deployed on that vessel within the last 12 months. Subsequent to the vessel's departure notification, but prior to departure, NMFS may contact the vessel to arrange for a pre-cruise meeting that will be conducted by NMFS. The pre-cruise meeting must minimally include the vessel operator or manager and any observers assigned to the vessel.

**G. Observer Requirements for EFP Participants.** All sampling under this EFP will be conducted by NMFS-certified observers deployed pursuant to regulatory requirements and working under the direction of NMFS.

1. Number of observer(s) for EFP trips. Each vessel participating in the EFP must have at least two NMFS-certified observers on board during EFP trips to collect required data and conduct required sampling during all hauls. A vessel operator may elect to carry additional observers during EFP trips, to a maximum of four observers, to allow fish to be run over the flow scale and into the factory during deck sorting (see Section K of this permit). Each observer's workload, including both EFP duties and normal duties, may not exceed 12 consecutive hours in a 24-hour period.
2. Observer Shift Schedules.
  - a. Vessels carrying two observers: Each observer will work a full 12-hour shift during a 24-hour period. The observers will coordinate with each other to develop a schedule that ensures that the workload is divided equitably between each observer. Observers will conduct sampling activities throughout each haul. The lead observer will provide the vessel captain with each observer's on-duty schedule, and any changes to that schedule during the trip. This schedule will allow the captain to identify the on-duty observer for purposes of the EFP haul-back and factory notification requirements.
  - b. Vessels carrying three observers: Each observer will work a full 12-hour shift during a 24-hour period. Prior to the start of each trip, the vessel will identify a 12-hour period where the vessel intends to continue to run fish over the flow scale during deck sorting operations. During this 12-hour period, two observers will be available at all times to facilitate deck and factory sampling. The observers will coordinate among themselves and with the vessel captain to develop a schedule. The schedule will ensure that the workload is divided equitably between each observer. Observers will conduct sampling activities throughout each haul. The lead observer will provide the vessel captain with each observer's on-duty schedule. Changes to the 12-hour period identified by the vessel may be made prior to starting a new trip following an offload. During a trip, should the vessel want to change the 12-hour period where two observers are needed, the change must be approved by the FMA in consultation with the observers, the AKSC, and vessel representatives. If an observer is unable to perform duties such that two observers are not available to maintain both deck and factory sampling duties, the vessel must stop the flow of fish over the flow scale during deck sorting operations so



that the remaining observer on duty can complete the deck sorting data collections.

- c. Vessels carrying four observers. Each observer will work a 12-hour shift during a 24-hour period. Two observers are expected to be on duty at all times in a 24-hour period to facilitate deck and factory sampling. The observers will coordinate among themselves and with the vessel captain to develop a schedule. The schedule will ensure that the workload is divided equitably between each observer. Observers will conduct sampling activities throughout each haul. The lead observer will provide the vessel captain with each observer's on-duty schedule at the beginning of the trip. If an observer is unable to perform duties such that two observers are not available to maintain both deck and factory sampling duties, the vessel must stop the flow of fish over the flow scale during deck sorting operations so that the remaining observer on duty can complete the deck sorting data collections.
3. Employment of observers. Observers must be employed by a NMFS-approved observer service provider.
4. Working conditions. Provisions at 50 CFR 679.7(g) pertaining to observer working conditions are applicable.

**H. Deck Sorting Video Monitoring.** A video recording system will be installed by vessel owners or operators on each participating vessel. Video recording system requirements must meet the requirements described below:

1. A screenshot of the proposed view for each video camera installed on the participating vessel and a diagram showing all cameras and their views must be submitted to NMFS for approval 10 working-days prior to the vessel's first EFP trip.
2. The video system must be approved and operational prior to the vessel's first EFP trip.
3. The video system must be maintained by the vessel operator, and must be recording at all times during all EFP trips from the commencement of the first EFP fishing until EFP fishing is completed on the last trip conducted under this EFP.
4. The video system must record at a minimum of 5 unique frames per second, and the video stream must be viewable on a monitor, which can be placed anywhere on the boat that is accessible to viewing by a NMFS employee or any individual authorized by NMFS, to verify its functionality.
5. Video data must be reviewed by the vessel operator once per calendar day on EFP trips to verify camera placement, camera view (must be clear and unobstructed), and the system's ability to record and save the video data. Daily reviews of the video monitoring system must be recorded by the vessel operator in a log and submitted with the video to NMFS as described in paragraph H8 below.
6. In the event of a video monitoring system malfunction, the time, date, and description of the malfunction must be recorded in the video log. The video monitoring system must be repaired and operational before the vessel may begin a new trip under the EFP.
7. NMFS employees and authorized officers will be provided access to the video data any time during the vessel's participation in the EFP.
8. The video data and log must be maintained on board the vessel for the duration of a vessel's participation in the EFP and must be submitted by the designated representative to NMFS for review at the end of each vessel's participation in the EFP. Any software needed to review this

video must also be submitted to NMFS. The address to submit the video data follows:

NMFS Alaska Region  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

- I. Deck Safety Plan.** For each participating vessel, the designated representative must submit a vessel-specific deck safety plan to NMFS for approval 10 business-days prior to the vessel's first EFP trip. The deck safety plan will detail a safe passage for the observer to access and work at the deck sorting sampling station.
- J. Deck Sorting.** This EFP allows deck sorting of halibut on trips designated as EFP trips when an observer is on duty and present to monitor deck sorting activities. The observer on duty will record length (which will be converted to weight via the International Pacific Halibut Commission conversion tables) and viability of halibut sorted on deck. During EFP hauls, all halibut sorting on deck must be carried out under the direct supervision of the observer on duty.
1. EFP mode is the default fishing mode.
  2. Notification to observer of non-deck sorting hauls.
    - a. The lead observer will provide the vessel captain with each observer's on-duty schedule, and any changes to that schedule during the trip. This schedule will allow the captain to identify the on-duty observer for purposes of the EFP haul-back and factory notification requirements.
    - b. At least 15 minutes prior to fish being brought on board the vessel, the captain, or the mate if the captain is not on duty, is responsible for notifying the on-duty observer if the vessel will not deck sort halibut during that haul. This will be done by "Deck Sort opt-out" notice between the vessel captain and the on-duty observer.
    - c. When halibut deck sorting resumes following a "Deck Sort opt-out," the vessel captain, or mate if the captain is not on duty, is responsible for notifying the observer on duty that the vessel is resuming deck sorting. For any haul where deck sorting did not occur, all halibut mortality will be calculated from the halibut collected in the observer species composition sample.
  3. Data collection procedures on deck.
    - a. For all deck sorting hauls, vessel crew are prohibited from bringing a codend on deck until the observer on duty is present on the deck.
    - b. To ensure compliance with item k in this paragraph, the observer will record the time of day that the codend reaches the stern ramp.
    - c. Observer must be provided a suitable space on deck, including a work table, to measure halibut and assess viabilities.
    - d. The work table must meet the following specifications, unless otherwise approved by NMFS: be between 0.9 and 1.1 meters tall with a table that is at least 0.6 meters deep and 1.2 meters wide; have a lip on at least two sides to prevent fish from sliding off; and have a NMFS-approved length strip secured to the surface. In most cases, the work table will be connected to a ramp, chute, or belt where halibut are slid from the deck and off the

vessel.

- e. There must be only a single pathway on deck for halibut to be conveyed to the observer on duty.
  - f. All halibut sorted on deck must pass over the observer work table.
  - g. At the discretion of the observer, large halibut sorted on deck, too cumbersome to place on the work table, may be measured and assessed within the pathway from the trawl alley to the point of discard.
  - h. There must be only a single point of discard after the work table, which must be visible to the observer during deck sorting operations.
  - i. For any deck sorted haul, crew will pull the codend forward of the live tank hatch. This will provide room for crew to sort halibut from the catch as it flows into the tank. All remaining catch, including the remainder of the halibut not sorted on deck will be dumped into the tank for observer sampling in the factory.
  - j. The observer will work with the crew to adjust the pace that the crew delivers halibut sorted on deck to the observer for sampling.
  - k. The time between the codend arriving at the stern ramp and the last halibut discarded on deck may not exceed 35 minutes.
  - l. The observer will record the time of day that the last halibut is sorted from the catch.
4. Video monitoring of deck sorting. The video monitoring system must show all deck areas where halibut are sorted from groundfish and other components of the catch on deck. (Video system requirements under the EFP are described in Section H of this permit).

#### **K. Transition to Factory**

- 1. If one observer is on duty
  - a. Once the observer is positioned on the deck area for deck sorting and during the duration of deck sorting activities by the crew and observer: any door between the live tank(s) where EFP catch (that was not removed on deck) is placed and the factory must be closed and any conveyor belt between the live tank and observer sample station must be stopped until observer duties on deck are completed.
  - b. After completion of deck sorting, upon notification from the observer on duty, the crew may open the live tank door and begin to discharge fish from the vessel's live tank(s) across the flow scale and into the factory.
- 2. If two observers are on duty. During deck sorting by crew: any door between the live tank(s) where EFP catch (that was not removed during deck sorting) is placed and the factory may remain open and fish may be run over the flow scale and into the factory.

#### **L. Factory Sampling**

- 1. Accounting for halibut in the factory
  - a. Observer will sample halibut in the factory according to standard catch composition and length and viability sampling procedures developed by FMA.

- b. The weight of halibut from the observer species composition sample in the factory will be extrapolated by the NMFS Catch Accounting System to estimate the total weight of halibut recovered in the factory.
- c. The total weight of factory halibut for the haul, estimated according to item b in this paragraph, will be assigned the applicable discard mortality rate in Table 19 to the BSAI annual harvest specifications and Table 17 to the GOA annual harvest specifications.

#### **M. Data Management**

1. Observers will follow data management responsibilities developed by FMA. These data management responsibilities are described in the observer's training materials. The FMA will provide the observer training materials to the PI in January, 2018 (and at any point revisions are made thereafter).
2. Vessel operator data management responsibilities.
  - a. For each EFP trip, the vessel operator must record the following information in "Management Program" in the electronic logbook (eLogbook):
    - i. if the management program is A80, OA, or RPP, then the vessel operator must enter "EXP;" and
    - ii. if the management program is CDQ, then the vessel operator must enter "CDQ" and they must add a comment into the eLogbook and enter "Deck sorting EFP."
  - b. A vessel operator must provide copies of all EFP deck sheets and data to the PI and designated representatives.
  - c. Deck sorting video monitoring data requirements are described in Section H of this permit.
3. Vessel owner data-sharing agreement. Vessel owners agree that the vessel's confidential catch and bycatch data collected throughout the EFP for all management programs (including, but not limited to, Amendment 80, TLAS, and CDQ), will be shared among NMFS, the vessel owner, SeaState, Inc., the PI, and designated representatives.
4. Principal Investigator responsibilities
  - a. The PI will analyze the EFP data and draft an interim report summarizing the project objectives, areas fished, vessels used, EFP project staff aboard, itinerary and schedule, number of halibut assessed on and below deck, and the weight of halibut and groundfish harvest. This interim report will be presented to the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Alaska Region, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) at a meeting of the Council, to be announced.
  - b. In addition, the PI will submit a more detailed final report of the data and prepare a written report for submission to NMFS within 90 days of completion of fieldwork. That report will encompass activities, results, accounting of any halibut savings generated, any problems and successes, and how well the EFP objectives were accomplished. A copy of that report also will be provided to the Council. If requested, the PI will present the report to the Council and its advisory bodies. Any analysis and report writing are the responsibility of the EFP permit holder.

- N. Sale of Groundfish.** EFP participants will be allowed to sell all groundfish catch retained in compliance with the EFP, regulations, and the law.
- O. Administration of the Activities under Exempted Fishing.** Management of the EFP fieldwork will be the responsibility of the PI, permit holders, and their designated representatives. The PI, a permit holder, or a designated representative must immediately notify the NMFS Alaska Regional Office by contacting Brandee Gerke (907-586-7650) and the owner of any vessel fishing under this permit if there are indications from a vessel operator, project field managers, or other sources that the vessel is not meeting EFP requirements or if there is a departure from the EFP terms and conditions.
- P. Sanctions.** Failure of the PI, permit holders, designated representatives, project field manager, vessel crew, or the owners or operators of the vessels fishing under this EFP to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit, non-exempted provisions of 50 CFR parts 600 and 679, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or any other applicable regulations, may be cause for revocation, suspension, or modification of this permit as well as civil or criminal penalties under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Q. Exemptions from Federal Regulations.** All participants must comply with all requirements of 50 CFR part 679 regulations applicable to vessels participating in Amendment 80, CDQ, Trawl Limited Access fisheries, and groundfish fisheries of the GOA with the exception of the exemptions listed below. These exemptions apply only to the deck sorting of halibut in accordance with the EFP, not other species, during the effective period of the EFP.
1. Biasing Observer Samples. Permit holders, vessel owners, and operators fishing under this permit, are exempt from § 679.7(g)(2) that otherwise prohibits biasing the observer's sampling procedure by pre-sorting halibut catch. The participating vessels will be allowed to account for the number of halibut caught through sampling methods described in Sections J and L of this permit. All other elements of § 679.7(g)(2) continue to apply to all other fishing during an EFP trip. Sorting of PSC species other than halibut will continue to be prohibited.
  2. Immediate Return of Prohibited Species to Sea. Vessel owners and operators are exempt from the requirement at § 679.21(a)(2)(ii) to return all prohibited species, or parts thereof, to the sea immediately, with a minimum of injury, regardless of its condition, for the specific purposes related to the additional time out of water needed for scientific and data collection purposes of the EFP: to allow the observer to measure and assess halibut viability on deck and to allow halibut to be handled and tagged for research purposes during EFP hauls designated under the conditions of the permit. Vessel operators must not lift halibut by the caudal peduncle, throw halibut, or otherwise cause additional injury to halibut. Furthermore, species other than halibut are not exempted from this prohibition and must be returned to the sea immediately, with a minimum of injury, regardless of condition.
  3. Halibut Flow Scale Exemption. Owners and operators of Amendment 80 vessels participating in this EFP are exempt from the requirement at § 679.93(c)(1), and owners and operators of all other vessels participating in this EFP are exempt from the requirement at § 679.28(b) that all catch of halibut must be weighed on a NMFS-approved scale and made available at a single location. This exemption is necessary to allow observers to take length measurements on halibut caught during EFP designated hauls, and release them to the sea.

**APPENDIX A—VESSEL DATA SHEET**

MODIFIED EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT: 2018-01

PERMITTED VESSEL

Name of managing company:

Vessel Name:

Federal Permit Number:

USCG Official Number:

Owner Name:

Owner Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Length Overall:

Gross Tonnage:

Type of Vessel:

Homeport:

Name, phone number, and email of designated representative:

Signature(s) of Designated Representative(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed

The signature(s) above confirm this information, but do not constitute a final commitment to participate in the test operation.

Accessibility of this Document:

Every effort has been made to make this document accessible to individuals of all abilities and compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The complexity of this document may make access difficult for some. If you encounter information that you cannot access or use, please email us at [alaska.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:alaska.webmaster@noaa.gov) or call us at 907-586-7228 so that we may assist you.